

Madison County Board of Elections

Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2018

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Board of Elections Conference Room. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chair; Dyatt Smathers, Vice Chair; Sandra Tolley, Secretary; Ray Lewis, Member; Kathy Ray, Director; Wade Gahagan, Deputy Director; and two (2) members of the public.

Call to Order

Chair Wallin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda

Vice Chair Smathers made a motion: *To approve the agenda as amended.* Member Lewis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Tolley made a motion: *To approve the May 17 and 18, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.* Vice Chair Smathers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair's and Members' Reports

Chair Wallin commented that the activities of the State Board of Elections over the next few weeks will likely impact and increase the work and decisions of the Board's next meeting.

Vice Chair Smathers commented that Senator Hise continues to express his support for county level funding to help with the purchase of new voting equipment. Senator Hise also says that the leadership in the House and the Senate are very much in favor of moving the decertification date for the iVotronics. Vice Chair Smathers reported that several vendors are presenting voting equipment for certification. The new equipment could be certified as early as the next State Board of Elections meeting. He finalized his comments by reporting there is positive feedback for the events of the past primary election and the performance of the office staff, and he provided information regarding the formation of new political parties and the impact on future Board of Election activities.

Director's Report

The Director reported on the May 31, 2018 budget revenues and expenditures and presented the 2018-2019 budget as approved the county commissioners.

The Director advises holding off on planned election equipment purchases until the State Board of Elections takes action on the certification of new election equipment and software.

New Business

Madison County Library Director, Melanie Morgan presented two (2) letters regarding the use of Mars Hill Public Library as an early voting site. She requested the Board of Elections identify another site for early voting due to the negative impact on library programming and funding opportunities. She also indicated there have been other incidents during early voting that are liability issues and/or have negatively impacted the library staff and budget. Vice Chair Smathers provided information regarding the board's decision to utilize Mars Hill Public Library as an early voting site.

Vice Chair Smathers made a motion: *To go into closed session for a personnel discussion.* Chair Wallin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Smathers made a motion: *To return to open session.*

A discussion continued regarding the use of both Mars Hill and Marshall Public Libraries as early voting and Election Day voting sites.

The Board was provided early voting statistics for use in developing the General Election, November 6, 2018 One Stop Voting Plan. The Director informed the Board that the plan must be submitted to the State Board of Elections by Friday, July 13th.

Vice Chair Smathers made a motion: *To change the regularly scheduled Wednesday, July 11th meeting to Monday, July 9th at 3:00 a.m.* Discussion ensued. Member Lewis made an amendment to the motion: *To change the regularly scheduled Wednesday, July 11th meeting to Monday, July 9th at 9:00 a.m.* Vice Chair Smathers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Smathers made a motion: *To query the May 8, 2018 primary election poll worker assistants and early voting staff to see if they will serve during the Tuesday, November 6, 2018 election.* Member Lewis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Director presented the Board with the resignation letter of Walnut Precinct Republican Judge Leigh Ann Thibodeau.

Other Matters

The Director provided the Board members with the template for the Director's annual evaluation.

Citizens Comments

A citizen asked the Board's thoughts about Madison County presenting a proposal to the State Board of Elections to conduct a pilot program in which all Madison County voters would be mailed an absentee

ballot. Vice Chair Smathers responded that approval of such a proposal would require legislative changes to current election laws.

A citizen commented that he would be interested to see what the legislators are spending on attorneys.

Announcements

Next Board meeting: July 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Smathers made a motion: *To adjourn the meeting.* Chair Wallin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Minutes Approved July 9, 2018
Kathy Ray
Kathy Ray, Director

Jerry Wallin
Jerry Wallin, Chair

Sandra Tolley
Sandra Tolley, Secretary